

Plan to

GET CRIME DOWN

in the West Midlands

Jay Singh-Sohal



More police



Less politics



***Safer
neighbourhoods***



My plan for the West Midlands as Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC):

- ✓ I will **increase and deploy more police** and **raise diversity** within the force
- ✓ I will **stop Labour's police station closures**
- ✓ I will **prioritise resources to target crime** with a robust and innovative approach
- ✓ I will **bring strong leadership** on effective ways **to tackle youth crime and re-offending**
- ✓ I will **enhance support for victims** by empowering grassroots organisations and community groups
- ✓ I will **fund frontline policing** by stopping money being wasted on politics and bureaucracy



Why I want to be your champion as PCC

“Growing up in Handsworth in the early 90’s, I wanted so badly to give my voice to issues and causes I felt were going unnoticed or uncovered in mainstream media.

I did not wait for someone to hand me an opportunity - I went out and started a youth magazine. In it I shared my communities feelings and experiences as well as my own. And through this came my staunch belief and commitment to speaking up for and serving others.

Quite simply - I believe in taking a stand, for what I believe in and to help those in need as well as protect others from harm. Whether it be as a journalist or as a soldier, or as your new Police and Crime Commissioner. And I get things done.

Right now, I am making that stand for our communities, who deserve to live, grow and thrive in a West Midlands without the fear of crime or criminals.

That’s why I’m seeking to become your police and crime commissioner, to empower our police force to tackle serious as well as low-level crime and to represent our communities and young people.

The situation we face in the West Midlands is one that needs a robust and dynamic approach, ideas and creativity as well as passion and selfless commitment to tackle rising crime, which has increased by a third over the past five years.

I have a plan to Get Crime Down.

You are looking at it. And I hope you will keep it with you and share with your loved ones. It speaks to all of us who want to see change happen.

For you have a champion representative of our region who WILL make a positive difference.

That is my promise.”

J. Singh-Sohal

1: More Police Officers

“I will increase and deploy more police and raise diversity within the force.”

We know that crime has risen - and to meet it we need a stronger police presence on the streets capable of providing a robust response, both empowered and equipped with the resources they need, whether it be S60, hand-held scanners or tasers.

It's all the more important that they also represent our region's diversity and the makeup of the neighbourhoods they are here to serve. Our region is 30% Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) but only 11% of the force come from those backgrounds. Focusing on diversity of recruitment will ensure we draw the best talent from all communities as we increase the force numbers. This will bring in new capabilities such as community intelligence, cultural understanding and language skills that we would not otherwise have, and which will enhance our crime fighting ability.

I will...

- build on the Government's uplift programme by hiring more officers funded through the WMP budget
- ensure at least 50 more officers per borough are recruited in to neighbourhood police units over the next three years
- work with local councils to increase the number of local PCSOs through match-funding in order to provide local reassurance to vulnerable communities affected by crime
- actively engage diverse communities to recruit more Special Constables from inner-city and underprivileged neighbourhoods across the whole region
- introduce incentives to develop PCSOs and Specials into officers as well as to retain officers thinking of leaving or retiring, as Specials
- increase the number of Police Cadets and base them at our police stations
- lead from the front to ensure the police are more representative of the communities they serve, holding the force to account for their recruitment work and engagement with communities across all levels of policing (from cadets to officers to staff)

2: More Police Stations

“I will stop Labour's police station closures.”

Having a strong police base in our neighbourhoods deters criminals, ensures confidence in local policing and signposts where those in need can seek help. Stations also provide support to the police officers and PCSOs themselves, as an office or place for wellbeing. Police stations such as those in Aldridge, Tipton, Sutton Coldfield, Solihull, Wednesfield and elsewhere provide local community policing presence and the capability to tap into local intelligence to tackle a range of crimes. Closing stations does not make people safe but signals a retreat from our communities and invites criminals to our areas.

I will...

- stop the current planned police station closures
- review where police stations are based and the capital spend on Estates
- review the concentration of staff and resources in to central Birmingham HQ and the long-term viability of Lloyd House
- review the force's current operating model and develop the strategic approach for where police stations, frontline officers and services are located in order to improve police response to crime and provide better support for victims
- bring new ideas and innovation into how police stations are utilised within their communities, including offering victims of crime a safe place of refuge, youth groups a community space for diversionary activities and for officers and vulnerable victims a video rooms to provide evidence to courts

3: More Targeting Crime

“I will prioritise resources to target crime with a robust and innovative approach.”

West Midlands is getting more money from the government, with a current budget of £655m, yet the region suffers from the fastest increasing rate of knife crime in the country while weapons possession, burglary and car theft are also on the increase. Birmingham is now, shamefully, one of three national centres for exporting drugs through notorious “county-lines” which is affecting young people through gang-related violence. The pressures of lockdown also mean so-called low level crimes have gone without a suitable police response. This must change as it’s affecting people’s confidence and belief in the police as a force for good.

I will...

- increase the number of local officers within Neighbourhood Police Units by at least 50 per borough (200 in the Black Country) to be more responsive to burglary, robbery, car crime, violence and sexual assaults
- ensure that local borough commanders have the capability to swiftly and appropriately make use of Stop and Search powers, acting quickly on local intelligence to get to criminals before they cause injury to others
- fund and introduce handheld scanners for frontline officers to undertake searches for knives in a less-invasive manner
- buy more taser to protect officers on the frontline, and integrate new ideas with new technology such as drones and car number plate recognition to track criminal activity
- invest in intelligence by recruiting specialists and through innovative community reporting and evidence-gathering to catch and prosecute criminals
- tackle violent criminals through behaviour change and deterrence methods by remodelling and refocusing the Violence Reduction Unit, and funding grassroots organisations that provide mentoring
- support a pragmatic approach to help those recovering from drugs and alcohol dependence, and cancel the Labour PCC’s costly and dangerous Drugs Consumption Rooms
- tackle hate crime by introducing a reporting hotline, a “safe space” and counselling for victims and pursue swift justice with behaviour change training for perpetrators
- launch a dedicated police task force on HMOs to challenge potential criminal use of exempt housing

4: Youth Crime and Reoffending

“I will bring strong leadership on effective ways to tackle youth crime and re-offending.”

Young people are all too easily drawn onto the conveyor belt that leads to crime. And once on it, they find it almost impossible to get off. What kept me out of trouble as a teenager was my community setting and having somewhere to go and focus my energies. I know at first hand the importance of giving young people activities and opportunities to divert them away from trouble, as well as strong role models and mentors to guide them plus careers advice and support to help them find jobs and a role in civil society.

I will...

- invest time, resources and effort into programmes that divert young people away from crime and criminals, create a “Youth Crime Working Group” to bring together community leads, councils, faith leaders, academics and VRU experts to develop and implement plans
- fund new and innovative ways of ensuring those who have offended are brought to justice while being kept out of the penal system when suitable, using tags and curfews where appropriate
- lobby government for resources to pilot “gangs intervention” programme in schools, and hire a “counter-gangs troubleshooter”
- work with partners to widen opportunities for vulnerable children to participate in civic activities and find and assign mentors and strong role models to influence behaviour
- work with government and schools to pilot knife crime awareness workshops as part of KS3 Citizenship classes
- introduce a “Young Persons Covenant” and leadership programme to model positive behaviour amongst 11-14 year olds
- appoint an Assistant Commissioner for Young People who will develop youth programmes and activity

5: Enhance Victim Support

“I will enhance support for victims by empowering grassroots organisations and community groups.”

We best reduce the number of victims of crime by getting crime down in the first place. But where people suffer at the hands of criminals, I will fund and develop our response to directly help them recover from the ordeal.

I will...

- appoint an Assistant Commissioner tasked with championing the interest of victims, and prioritise the needs of victims over criminals
- “capacity build” grassroots organisations by providing non-monetary support such as expert advice, to develop them so they can better help and support victims
- fairly fund victims support organisations, and work to match-fund with councils and other partners through the VRU, to reward groups as well as ideas that can demonstrate effectiveness of their support
- provide training to upskill PCSOs to be able to counsel and reassure victims in the aftermath of crimes
- recruit and train PCSOs as first responders on domestic abuse and violence, with at least two per borough
- create a “Victim’s Online Portal” to provide help and support to victims of crime, and where evidence collected from a crime can be submitted
- work with victims and victims groups to seek swift justice in relevant cases that can be settled with Out of Court Disposals

6: Less Waste & Politics

“I will fund frontline policing by stopping money being wasted on politics and bureaucracy”

While residents have been paying more and more in their local police precept tax, the cost of the Office of PCC and associated bureaucracy continues to suck funding out of the police budget. WMP are also recruiting wasteful roles such as an “Assistant Director Fairness and Belonging” at £74k a year. It wouldn’t matter as much if crime didn’t continue to rise but residents are more affected by it than ever before and money and resources should be going towards the frontline.

I will...

- publish a Police and Crime Plan within 100 days of taking office to give strong direction to the force about my policing priorities (as outlined in this manifesto)
- undertake a budget review of the 2021/2 Revenue Budget as well as Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2024/5 to assess and align on my policing priorities outlined in this manifesto and future Police and Crime Plan
- take less money out of the WMP budget to fund my office by reducing the cost of the Office of PCC
- scrap the £68k-a-year post of Deputy PCC
- axe the £410k-a-year political “Strategic Police and Crime Board” and introduce a more effective and efficient way of holding the Chief publicly to account including a public engagement forum
- cut down on roles driven by box-ticking and a political agenda, which simply deliver more management and no real change, to streamline change through a focus on increased diversity in leadership positions
- review the model and scope of the VRU to focus on tackling causes of rising crime
- measure all budgetary activity with whether it delivers the best value for money for taxpayers
- explore relevant and ethical partnerships, both civic and commercial, to create efficiencies and reduce waste
- seek ways to reduce energy bills by introducing green initiatives within police stations, HQ and places of work



About Jay Singh-Sohal

Rising crime, ever-increasing local police precept tax and the closure of local police stations is what prompted Jay Singh-Sohal to step forward to run to become PCC.

A dedicated public servant and community organiser, Jay has been serving his country for the past twelve years in the Army Reserve, starting as a soldier in the Intelligence Corps in Stourbridge before commissioning as a Captain into 77th Brigade.

Born and raised in inner-city Birmingham, Jay attended Handsworth Grammar School and now lives in Royal Sutton Coldfield.

By trade, he is an accredited ITV-trained television journalist who learnt his trade locally at Central News. Alongside his civilian job, Jay's military career has seen him deploy on operations against Islamic State in the Middle East as well as in a UN and NATO setting. He is a recipient of the Army's "Certificate of Meritorious Service" and has been recognised for his charity and community work, including from the Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Jay is committed to creating positive change in the West Midlands.

He is running for office for the first time, to become YOUR Police and Crime Commissioner to GET CRIME DOWN.

"I believe Jay will be a fantastic Police and Crime Commissioner for Wolverhampton. He will stop the closure of Wednesfield Police Station and boost police presence on our streets."

Jane Stevenson MP



"I believe Jay would make a great PCC, he listens to local concerns and has a plan for dealing with crime whilst managing resources efficiently."

James Morris MP

"Jay will create the positive change we need to improve the lives of young people and the future hopes of our urban areas."

Suzanne Webb MP



"With his impressive background in security and defence, coupled with his drive to ensure more police and community police are deployed to all boroughs, Jay has a genuine passion that our local community should feel safe in our everyday lives."

Stuart Anderson MP



"Knife crime up. Robbery's up. Antisocial behaviour up. Only by voting for Jay will this change. He is the only candidate who will take tough action to bring down crime."

Gary Sambrook MP

"Jay is the only candidate who will fight for the funding and resources we need in the West Midlands. He understands the concerns of our communities and will work tirelessly for local people, which is why I'm backing him to be our next PCC."

Nicola Richards MP



"As our Police and Crime Commissioner Jay will make a difference for all the residents of Aldridge-Brownhills, putting more Police on our streets and maintaining a Police Station at the heart of our community. I am pleased to be supporting his campaign."

Wendy Morton MP



"Jay will make a brilliant Police and Crime Commissioner, he has promised to keep the Royal Town's Police Station open and put in more officers to tackle crime."

Andrew Mitchell MP



"I am delighted to endorse Jay Singh Sohla to be the next West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Since the post was created Labour have controlled it and they have been a disaster. We need a Conservative PCC who has a focus on putting more police on the streets and stopping police station closures, vote for Jay Singh Sohla for better policing in Walsall."

Eddie Hughes MP



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